

Baggs Deer Underpass Update

A Reconyx infrared digital camera (Model RC-55) was installed inside the underpass on the afternoon of October 16, 2009. The camera was checked 3 days later on October 19 to make sure it was functioning properly. Approximately 240 photos of mule deer had been obtained during that time. The camera was checked again on November 16, 2009. There was a message on the LCD screen which indicated the 2-GB memory card had filled the previous morning. Approximately 6,400 photos of mule deer had been collected during the previous 4 weeks. Although a large number of deer have moved through the underpass, it appears there is a pretty high avoidance rate as well. Deer will approach the structure, sometimes several times, before turning and running off out of the camera's field of view. Many of the deer that do pass through the structure make several skittish approaches before finally running through it. Some deer seem to have no problem with it and just walk through without much reluctance at all. Based on the number of west-to-east crossings and photos of a couple bucks with unique antler configurations that have made multiple trips through the structure in both directions, it appears the underpass is being used for daily movements as well as seasonal migration. This was very evident during the first 2 or 3 weeks in November when bucks were following does through the structure in both directions.

Table 1. Number of mule deer crossings through Baggs Underpass from October 16, 2009 to November 15, 2009.

Mule Deer Crossings through Baggs Underpass - WYO 789, Milepost 45			
Date	East to West Crossings	West to East Crossings	Total
Oct. 16 - Nov. 15, 2009	853	154	1007
Total:	853	154	1007

Table 2. Other wildlife species crossing through Baggs Underpass from October 16, 2009 to November 15, 2009.

Other Wildlife Species Crossings through Baggs Underpass - WYO 789, Milepost 45			
Date	Elk	Bobcat	Coyote
Oct. 16 - Nov. 15, 2009	0*	1	1
Total:	0*	1	1

* It appeared that a substantial number of elk moved through the underpass sometime between the morning of November 15 and the afternoon of November 16 while the memory card was full. Sam Lockwood observed approximately 30 elk on the east side of the highway along Muddy Creek on November 13 or 14. When the camera was checked on November 16, there were numerous elk tracks in the snow on both sides of the underpass moving in an east to west direction but no photos of elk were recorded.

Photos:



2009-10-20 6:46:52 AM M 3/3

38°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-10-22 7:28:26 AM M 2/3

27°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-10-23 7:26:38 AM M 2/3 30 32°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-10-23 7:30:58 AM M 1/3 30 32°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-10-23 7:31:53 AM M 3/3 30 32°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYX

2009-10-24 9:07:49 AM M 2/3 1 42°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYX

2009-10-31 8:49:48 AM M 2/3 29°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-10-31 8:51:30 AM M 2/3 29°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-10-31 8:33:19 PM M 2/3

36°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYX

2009-11-01 9:01:15 AM M 2/3

35°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYX

2009-11-04 6:40:09 AM M 1/3

26°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-11-13 12:09:43 PM M 1/3

32°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-11-14 10:37:05 AM M 2/3

0 8°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-11-14 4:11:06 PM M 1/3

0 26°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

